COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR AND PENSIONS RANKING MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington. DC 20515

September 11, 2018

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN, INSULAR AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Doug Domenech Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C St., NW Washington, DC 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Domenech:

High energy costs bedevil the insular areas we represent, harming consumers, limiting development, and draining capital from our islands' economies.

To address this problem in 2014 Congress enacted U.S. Public Law 113-235, which required certain actions by the Department of the Interior. These included:

- 1) Establishment of a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to develop an energy action plan specific to each of our areas and to assist in implementation of these plans.
- 2) Annual reports to Congress detailing the progress made toward implementation of the plans.

Our staff have consulted with the Office of Insular Affairs and with our own congressional sources of information; and we are unable to confirm that these required annual reports have ever been filed. Although, there are energy action plans posted on the Office of Insular Affairs website for Guam (2013), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (2013), American Samoa (2016), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (2011).

We bring this matter to your attention because our constituents and our economies continue to bear the burden of high energy costs and more needs to be done to lower these costs. The energy plans outlined in USPL 113-235 were to have set goals for reducing reliance on imported fuels, developing domestic supplies, and improving energy efficiency, and to have recommended financing these goals and establishing a timetable and benchmarks for implementation.

This descriptive framework remains valid and is required by law. We need to know what has been achieved and what more Congress can do to speed progress.

We look forward to working with you to focus your Department on this responsibility with respect to the insular areas we represent.

Sincerely,

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